

Maureen Boshier
President
New Mexico Hospitals and Health Systems Association

Maureen Boshier is currently the President and Chief Executive Officer of the New Mexico Hospitals and Health Systems Association, the membership organization for all of the hospitals and health systems in the State of New Mexico. The Association conducts legislative and public policy work at the local, state and national level.

Maureen was affiliated with the University of New Mexico Hospital from 1988 through 1994 and served as Surgical Services and Senior Nursing Administrator. During her tenure there, Maureen managed the programs, budgets, and personnel for 15 departments, expanded operating room services, initiated several new ambulatory programs, served on the team for union contract negotiations and officiated as the hospital's liaison to the School of Medicine's Departments of Surgery, Anesthesia, and Orthopedics. She was also responsible for the development and direction of nursing policy and practice for the hospital and monitoring for quality of patient care.

Between 1984 and 1988, Maureen served as Executive Vice President of the then New Mexico Hospital Association, where she implemented a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant for a statewide swing-bed project, helped inaugurate the distance education BSN completion program, staffed several board committees on policy and services and worked with state and legislative bodies on funding and health policy issues.

Maureen holds an undergraduate and a graduate degree in nursing, as well as a graduate degree in business administration.

Maureen represents Allied Association Executives on AHA's Council for Small or Rural Hospitals and the State Issues Forum Steering Committee, serves on the State's Advisory Committee for Medicaid and is a 1992 recipient of the YWCA Women on the Move award and a 1997 recipient of the Governor's award for Outstanding New Mexico Women, is a member of the American Organization of Nurse Executives and has served as the chair of its Legislative Advocacy Committee. She is a 1993 J&J Wharton Fellow, she is the Past President of Gamma Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau, International, the honor society for nursing, and serves also on committees for: Rotary Club of Albuquerque, the Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce, the Governor's Business Advisory Council, and the New Mexico Business Journal Advisory Board, as well as national councils and boards for the American Hospital Association. She recently achieved Diplomat status of the American College of Health Care Executives.

Sherry M. Hirota
Executive Director
Asian Health Services

Sherry M. Hirota is the Executive Director of Asian Health Services, Inc. in Oakland, CA. She has worked in Asian American community organizations for over 30 years and has been in health care for the last 21 years. Under her direction, Asian Health Services has become a model for multilingual, multicultural health care services targeting the diverse Asian population that includes Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, Laotian, Mien, and Cambodian. Her particular interest is in health advocacy and access for underserved Asian and Pacific Islander populations. She helped found and serves on the Board of Directors of the Asian and Pacific Islander American Health Forum and the Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations. Her leadership in the public policy area such as serving as the co-chair of Lt. Governor Leo McCarthy's Asian Pacific Islander Health Hearings has helped attract local, state, and national attention to the myriad of health access issues (language, cultural, financial, availability) and health status problems of the country's fastest growing minority group.

She currently serves on the Governing Board of the Alameda Alliance for Health and also on the Board of Trustees of the health care foundation. The California Endowment. She co-authored a chapter on "Access to Health Care" in *Confronting Critical Issues of Asian and Pacific Islander Americans*. Sage Publications, Inc. 1994 and wrote a chapter in the book *Immigrant Women's Health*, Jossey-Bass Publishers 1999.

In addition to her activities in health advocacy on behalf of the Asian and Pacific Islander populations, she has participated in key committees and task forces at the local and national levels to address broader issues of racial and ethnic disparities in health and the problem of the uninsured. Recent activities include being in the Advisory Board of the Bureau of Primary Health Care's National Center for Cultural Competence, the Executive Committee of the Community Voices for Immigrant Health, the Executive Planning Committee for the 2nd consensus Conference on Minority Health Research and Research Training by the Office of Research on Minority Health of the National Institutes of Health, and the National Leadership Conference on Eliminating Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health of the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services and Grantmakers in Health.

She is a 1994 recipient of the Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leadership Award and the 1997 recipient of the San Francisco Foundation Award. Other awards she has received include: Woman of the Year 16th Assembly District of California in 1997 and 1993; 1995 Outstanding Woman of the Year in Health Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame. She has testified in Congress and consults regularly on the issues of language and cultural access for the under served particularly in the context of managed care and health reform. Ms. Hirota was born and raised in Berkeley, California the granddaughter of Japanese immigrants.